Shortfall in Power Generation Capacity

561. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) despite a liberalised investment policy for the private sector, why there is a shortfall of 12,000 MW in power generation capacity creation during the Eighth Plan Period; and

(b) whether Government are considering for a thorough reappraisal of the policy of find out what has gone wrong in the country's power planning in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) The main reasons for the shortfall in capacity addition are inadequate funding, project specific procedural delays including land acquisition, delay in taking up infrastructure and enabling work, civil protests against some of the projects, law and order problems, geological surprises in case of hydro project and natural calamities like floods. Another important reason for slippages witnessed during the 8th Plan has been that the States saw the announcement of policy for private participation as an opportunity to cut back on their investment in generation projects leading to diversion of funds to other sectors. In several cases change in executing agency involved changes in the DPRs for which necessary clearances had to be sought a fresh resulting in delays.

(b) Policy review is an ongoing process and necessary modification/amendments arc made taking into account the changing scenario and other relevant factors. After extensive consultation with the State Governments. Government of India has adopted a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power and Fresh initiatives have been taken to improve the performance of power sector and to make it viable. The following are the components of the Action Plan:—

1. Setting up of Central and State Regulatory Commissions.

2. Drawing up of new Energy Policy.

3. Rationalisation of retail tariffs.

4. Encouraging private participation in distribution.

5. Reviewing the role of Central agencies to streamline clearance pro cedures.

6. Providing autonomy to SEBs and improvement in their management practices.

Government has also initiated measures to expedite capacity addition programme in the country. In the public sector, efforts have been made to get enhanced fund allocation to accelerate completion of the ongoing projects. Besides this, powers have been delegated to shorten the project development/clearance and the clearance procedure streamlined. In the private sector, efforts to promote short gestation projects such as liquid fuel based projects, barge mounted plants. Renovation & Modernisation Schemes and captive and co-generation plants have been made.

Clearance to Cogentrix Power Project

562. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cogentrix Power Project has been cleared for implementation;

(b) if so, the details of the project, its estimated cost and the targeted date for completion of the project; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINIS-